

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*MINUTES OF THE 22ND ANNUAL
SESSION OF THE GENEVA BAP-
TIST ASSOCIATION, HELD WITH
LEONIA BAPTIST CHURCH,*

HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA,

OCTOBER 19TH AND 20TH, 1898.



J. F. REGISTER, MODERATOR, GENEVA, ALA.

W. L. CHANCEY, CLERK, GENEVA, ALA.



The next session will be held with Shiloh Church, Dundee, Ala., commencing Wednesday before the fourth Sunday in October, 1899. The introductory sermon will be preached by Rev. J. F. Register; Rev. J. H. Patton, alternate.

THE JOURNAL PRINT, GENEVA, ALA.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Introductory sermon.
2. Enrollment of messengers.
3. Election of officers.
4. Petitionary letters.
5. Receiving correspondents.
6. Appointing correspondents.
7. Appointing special committees: (1) on Devotional Services,
(2) on Nominations, (3) on Documents, (4) on Deceased Min-
isters and Deacons.
8. Miscellaneous business.
9. Reports of standing committees.
10. Reports of special committees.
11. Appointment of standing committees.
12. Miscellaneous matters and adjournment.

ORDAINED MINISTERS

J. F. REGISTER, Geneva, Ala.

W. H. WEBB. Geneva, Ala.

N. J. PETERS, Geneva, Ala.

W. L. CANALL, Geneva, Ala.

JESSE DESHAZO, Dundee, Ala.

G. J. CANANT, Watford, Ala.

J. L. C. WHITE, Eunola, Ala.

J. H. PATTON, Barkers, Fla.

MILESS OSBORN, Patola, Fla.

A. B. RIDDLES, Holmes, Fla.

COMMITTEES.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Nat Pace - - - - - - - - Geneva, Ala.

R. Mills - - - - - Costilla, Ala.

J. T. Coleman - - - - - - - Eunola, Ala.

ORPHANAGE.

A. W. Bean - - - - - - Geneva, Ala.

T. F. Sellars - - - - - Geneva, Ala.

W. L. Chancey - - - - - Geneva, Ala.

SUNDAY SCHOOL.

J. B. Albritton - - - - - Eanola, Ala

J. W. Austin - - - - - - - - Costilla, Ala.

A. M. Mills - - - - - Costilla, Ala.

TEMPERANCE.

Rev. J. H. Patton - - - - - - Barkers, Fla.

B. J. Castillo - - - - - Geneva, Ala.

D. J. Renfro - - - - -

MISSIONS.

B. S. Langston - - - - - Dundee, Ala.

B. F. Mathews - - - - - Enola, Ala.

H. J. Owens - - - - - Holmes, Fla.

MINUTES.

The Twenty-second annual session of the Geneva Baptist Association convened with Leonia Baptist church, Holmes county, Fla., on October 19 and 20, 1898. The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. A. J. Brooks at 11 a. m.; text, 3d chapter of 1st Epistle of John: "It doth not yet appear what we shall be."

Adjourned until 1:30 p. m.

The body assembled pursuant to adjournment and the former moderator, J. F. Register, read the 133d division of Psalms; prayer by N. J. Peters, after which the moderator announced the association open for business.

The letters, with their messengers, from the various churches were handed in and read by Bros. J. B. Albritton and B. S. Langston, as follows:

Adoniram—W. L. Chancey and A. B. Pate.

Friendship—R. Mills.

Pleasant Grove—J. S. Heath, J. W. Berry, J. F. Osborne, B. F. Matthews.

Leonia—J. M. Gilmore and J. F. Watson.

New Hope—H. J. Owens, T. J. Webb and William Allred.

Zion Hill—C. L. Aman and L. Howard.

Union—J. C. Anderson and Elijah Dean.

New Teamon—W. L. Smith and D. N. Tew.

Pilgrim Rest (Dale county)—M. J. Cox.

Pleasant Ridge—J. M. Gillis and T. H. Andrews.

Shiloh—B. S. Langton and Will Pate.

Pleasant Hill—R. H. Whitfield and J. M. Farmer.

Fellowship—W. R. Palmer, J. G. Childs and Burl Galloway.

Geneva—J. B. Albritton, B. J. Castillo, N. J. Peters and J. F. Register.

It was moved and carried that the officers be elected by ballot. Bro. J. F. Register was elected moderator.

W. L. Chancey was elected clerk.

The moderator announced the body ready for business.

1st. Called for petitionary letters, and one was handed in from Edom church, which was received.

2d. Called for correspondents from other associations, and received Jo. Jones from the Pea River, W. A. Bryan from the West Florida, A. J. Preston from the Judson, A. J. Brooks from the Sardis, D. L. Anderson from the Graves, L. S. Loudermilk as a correspondent and representative of the Newton school.

3d. Returned correspondents to other associations—J. F. Register, A. J. Preston, to the Pea River; J. H. Patton, G. J. Canant,

R. Mills, J. F. Register, to the West Florida; B. S. Langston, B. J. Castillo, H. J. Owens, to the Sardis; G. J. Canant, B. S. Langston, W. L. Chancey, N. J. Peters, to the Columbia.

4th. Appointment of special committees:

On Documents—B. J. Castillo, T. J. Webb, J. M. Gillis.

On Deceased Ministers—T. J. Watson, Jack Galloway, J. F. Osborn.

On Bible Distribution—William Allred, J. M. Farmer, R. H. Whitfield.

On Nominations—H. J. Owens, J. M. Gilmon, Calvin Anderson.

On Divine Service—B. S. Langston, delegate of Leonia church.

On Sunday Schools—N. J. Peters, L. Howard, D. N. Tew.

On Pastors' Report—B. S. Langston, Elijah Dean, J. G. Childs.

On Orphanage—J. B. Albritton, W. J. Cox, T. H. Anderson.

On Missions—N. J. Peters, B. F. Mathews, W. R. Palmer.

On Periodicals—J. W. Berry, C. L. Aman, A. P. Pate.

On Finance—J. B. Albritton, B. S. Langston and B. J. Castillo.

Adjourned until Thursday morning at 9:30 o'clock.

THURSDAY MORNING.

The association met at 9:30 o'clock. Prayer service, conducted by B. J. Castillo, after which the business of the association was resumed, and the report on temperance, which was read on Wednesday evening, was taken up and discussed by Bros. A. J. Preston, W. A. Bryan, G. J. Canant and others. Report adopted.

At 11 o'clock Bro. A. J. Preston preached a sermon from the 4th chapter and 2d verse of 2d Timothy: "Preach the word."

Adjourned until 2 o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The body met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by A. B. Riddles, after which the regular business was taken up.

Reports of committees were called for; the report on missions was read; discussed by A. J. Preston. Report adopted.

Other committee reports were read and adopted as follows: On orphanage, appendix A; on pastors' support, appendix B; on Bible distribution, appendix C; on temperance, appendix D; on missions, appendix E; on Sunday schools, appendix F; on periodicals, appendix G; on deceased ministers, appendix H; on nominations, appendix I; on finance, appendix J; on documents, appendix K.

The following resolution was adopted:

Whereas, We, as a Missionary Baptist people, representing and constituting the Geneva Baptist Association, fully realizing the great importance of the proper education of the children of our country; and,

Whereas, We, believing it to be proper and right, when practicable, to educate our children in schools and institutions of

learning under the auspices of the Missionary Baptist denomination; and.

Whereas, We, having ascertained it to be a fact that the Southeast Alabama Baptist Collegiate Institute has been located at Newton, Dale county, Alabama, is now in session with bright prospects, under a board of trustees composed of Missionary Baptists, and being taught by an efficient faculty composed of Missionary Baptists, to be under the auspices of the Baptist denomination of Southeast Alabama; therefore, be it resolved,

1st. That the Geneva Baptist association, through the messengers composing the same, indorse said school, and adopt the same as the Missionary Baptist school of Southeast Alabama, with all of its intents and purposes, as exhibited by its Constitution.

2d. That this association, during its present session, appoint a trustee, or trustees, for said school, and he or they be hereby authorized to co-operate with the board of trustees for said school; and that we herein and hereby recommend that the Missionary Baptist denomination of Southeast Alabama adopt and patronize said school.

It was moved, seconded, and carried, that a committee be appointed to revise the Constitution of this Association and report at its next regular meeting. Committee—J. B. Albritton, B. S. Langston and J. F. Register.

A motion prevailed that the clerk be paid \$10 for his services, and have minutes printed with balance of money.

A letter of dismissal from this Association was granted to Pilgrim Rest church of Coffee county.

APPENDIX A.

Your committee on orphanage, in the absence of any facts connected with the Orphans' Home in regard to its management for the past year, regret that no report can be made. We earnestly recommend the home to the care and consideration of the Baptist family. Respectfully submitted,

J. B. ALBRITTON, Chairman.

APPENDIX B.

We, your committee, submit the following: Dear Brethren—As God hath ordained that they who preach the gospel should live of the gospel (1st Cor. 9:14), therefore we recommend that the churches provide some plan whereby they can support their pastors in that way, according to the Scriptures, that they may give themselves wholly to prayer and ministry of the Word.

Respectfully submitted, B. S. LANGSTON, Chairman.

APPENDIX C.

Your committee on Bible distribution submit the following: We fully realize the importance of having the Word of God placed in every home, and we are glad to know that our Colportage board

and publishing houses are making every possible effort to furnish Bibles and Testaments at greatly reduced prices, which fact, perhaps, may not be generally known; and we recommend that pastors give publicity to these facts and assist as much as possible in the distribution of Bibles. Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM ALRED, Chairman.

APPENDIX D.

Your committee on temperance beg leave to submit their annual report, as follows: We believe that strict sobriety should be the motto of every soul on earth, for the use of intoxicating liquors does injury to every occupation in the world. It even proves a curse to the medical department, as the doctor often drinks is instead of giving it so the patient, and when given to the sick for the "stomach's sake" it often causes more fury than quietude, more death than life. The testimony of nearly one thousand German physicians recently tell us that they had no use in their practice for intoxicating liquors of any kind, as they were not beneficial in any case; therefore the only reason for the use of strong drink by those who seek an excuse for drinking has been, by these medical scientists, dispelled. Would to God that some of our American doctors could be impressed not only to believe this statement, but put it into practice.

Drink a little wine for thy stomach's sake was never intended by Paul to be construed as a license for a man to set up a barroom to deal out a deadly poison, or that a drunkard, though a church member, could enter the kingdom of heaven. It is certain that Paul had reference to that wine spoken of by David which maketh glad the heart of man, that oil which maketh man's face to shine and that bread which strengtheneth man's heart, and not that poison which defiles and pollutes those who take it inwardly.

If the lawyer uses strong drink his conscience will soon be silenced and misrepresentations will follow. The merchant knows no shorter way to an assignment than to drink the poisonous curse. Strong drink causes the farmer to neglect both seed and harvest time. Its effect upon the workman is to do away with the plumb, rule, square and level. There is not one place in all the earth that needs strong drink. It is no more a necessity than Satan himself, and any business that does not need the devil does not need strong drink. Therefore, to be honest with ourselves and with our God, we must say: No strong drink to be used in any way. No promoters of intemperance to deal out poison to our boys—making them drunkards, vagabonds and murderers.

The church member who visits the barroom and there uses strong drink as a beverage says by his acts that "God is a liar, and the truth is not in him;" that the church is no place to teach and inculcate the principles of virtue, morality and religion; that the liquor traffic is more honorable than the cause of missions, and

that the barroom is more attractive than the Sabbath school or prayer meeting, for a majority of our drinking church members can always be found lounging around places where whiskey is sold, but rarely ever at church. The church that retains the membership of a drunkard or drinking member will not have any influence for good, and will, ultimately, become a reproach unto the cause of Christianity. These are plain statements, but nevertheless true. The time has come when the church has got to leave off trying to purify the world and turn her attention to the reformation and cleaning up of her own household. While we rejoice in the fact that many of our churches and church members have become aroused upon the temperance question, we are sorry to say that most of our efforts at reforming our drinking brethren have been paper talks. Many of these drinking members, who have been taunted so much with temperance resolutions adopted by the church and buried no one knows where, laugh at us when we say anything about their conduct. A line should be drawn at once. Positive action is what we need. Until actual steps are taken very little good on this line will ever be accomplished. The right men should be put in command of this fight for church purity. It is all right to educate public sentiment against strong drink and barrooms, but it is far better for the church to enforce a strict discipline against treasonable members. As a rule, our churches are cowardly on the temperance question, and the world has found it out. We suggest this remedy: Let all of our preachers refuse to pastor any church which retains the membership of any drunken or drinking member, and let our presbyteries refuse to ordain any minister who will not observe this rule. Let our associations and conventions refuse to fellowship any church guilty of holding drunken members. A church member who loves the cup and barroom better than the church has no claims upon the church and therefore the quicker a separation takes place the better it will be for the influence of the church. The church that prefers the membership of a drunken member to the services of a pastor does not need to be called a church and the sooner this fact is known the better it will be for the world. We pray God to lead us in the right direction and deliver us from the curse of social drinking, of the liquor traffic and of drunkenness that prevails in this land of boasted Christianity. Respectfully submitted,

J. B. ALBRITTON, Chairman.

APPENDIX E.

Your committee notes some highly gratifying facts in connection with missions. For the first time in years our Foreign Mission board reported at the last session of the Southern Baptist convention that it was out of debt, and for this we feel profoundly grateful; the number of converts, their excellent character; the decrease of obstacles, political, social and religious; the increased

devotion of missionaries to their work, notwithstanding the hardships and perils they had to encounter, are inspiring and encouraging features of our work. But there are some discouraging features which force themselves upon us for our consideration—the want of funds to carry on the work according to the increasing demands. New doors are being opened; God is calling more missionaries. Well qualified men are coming to us from other denominations. These servants of God must be accepted and sent out if we would obey the voice of God. But where is the money to pay their expenses and support them in the field. Many of our people are unconcerned about the work, and others seem to care but little whether we progress with the work or not. Our Home board began the year with a debt of \$13,700, but they increased the working force nearly one hundred, so we now have in the field nearly 450 missionaries. These brethren are working in the Southern States, Indian Territory and Cuba. The Home board needs at least \$100,000 to support the present forces; that would only allow a salary of \$250 each, but our forces should be doubled in the home field. The most discouraging feature is our State work; we have only about seventeen missionaries at work, and they are only about half paid. We need at least thirty-six evangelists beside the missionary pastors; we need a better understanding and closer organization between our associations and State conventions; we need the earnest prayers, sympathy and co-operation of all of our churches. Let us unite in our efforts to relieve the present indebtedness of our State board, and then double our forces, fully recognizing the importance of evangelistic work. We most earnestly request our State board to increase our force, believing, as we do, that our beloved brother, J. F. Register, is a suitable man for this work in this part of the country. We most earnestly recommend him to our board for election to this important position of evangelist for this part of the country.

Respectfully,

W. L. CHANCEY.

APPENDIX F.

Your committee on Sabbath schools notes with regret the little interest manifested in this work by some of our churches, but we are truly grateful to know that a number of our churches are wide awake to the importance of this subject. The Sabbath school reports from some of our churches were truly gratifying, for they showed signs of true church life. We most earnestly recommend that all of our pastors make a faithful effort to establish and maintain a good, live, evergreen Sabbath school in every church within the bounds of this association. We would also encourage individual effort in establishing and maintaining Sabbath schools at every place where such a thing is possible, whether there is a church or not. Let our members give more attention to the education of their children in Bible thought and Bible language and

there will be less lawlessness in our country and more sobriety. Believing that system is best in all things, we recommend that at least two Sabbath school missionaries be placed in the bounds of the Geneva association, whose duty it shall be to visit all of our churches and help organize Sabbath schools; to assist destitute places and organize Sabbath schools in them. We suggest the appointment of Bros. J. B. Albritton and B. J. Castillo for this important position. Respectfully submitted,

N. J. PETERS, Chairman.

APPENDIX G.

We, your committee on periodicals, suggest that the association first study the Word of God, and then such literature as teaches sound Baptist doctrine. Respectfully, J. W. BERRY, Chairman.

APPENDIX H.

We, your committee on deceased ministers, report that by the mercies of God all our ministers have been spared for another year. Respectfully, J. F. WATSON, Chairman.

APPENDIX I.

We, your committee on nominations, report as follows: We recommend Bro. J. F. Register to preach the introductory sermon at the next association, and Rev. J. H. Patton, alternate.

H. J. OWENS, Chairman.

APPENDIX J.

Your committee on finance find the following:

For State missions.....	\$50 21
Foreign missions.....	8 30
Home missions.....	1 00
Orphans' Home.....	1 00
Minutes and association purposes	22 75
A. L. Blizzard.....	11 00—\$94 26

We recommend that the amount from A. L. Blizzard be given Bro. J. F. Register for the work of Home mission services and for which he has never fully been paid. J. B. ALBRITTON, Ch'mn.

APPENDIX K.

We, your committee on documents, submit the following: We find four churches asking that the next session be held with them, Geneva, Adoniram, Shiloh and Friendship; and Pilgrim Rest, Coffee county, asking for a letter of dismissal from our association.

B. J. CASTILLO, Chairman.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS.

We, the delegates and visitors of this association, extend our thanks to this church and the entire community for their kindness shown us while among them, and especially the ladies who have the burden to bear on all occasions like this.

At the request of the committee on documents, J. B. Albritton and B. J. Castillo were appointed as missionaries to visit the different churches and aid in Sabbath school work.

The association adjourned to meet with Shiloh Baptist church, Dundee, Geneva county, Ala., on Wednesday before the fourth Sunday in October, 1899.

W. L. CHANCEY, Clerk.

J. F. REGISTER, Moderator.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe in one only true and living God, and that there are three persons in the God-head—the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.
2. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the words of God, and the only rule of faith practice.
3. We believe in the doctrine of eternal and particular election.
4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.
5. We believe in man's impotency to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature by his own free will and ability.
6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Christ.
7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Ghost.
8. We believe that the saints shall be preserved in grace and never finally fall away.
9. We believe that baptism and the Lord's supper are evidences of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only subjects of these ordinances; and we believe that true mode of baptism is by immersion.
10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgment.
11. We believe the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting, and the joys of the righteous will be eternal.
12. We believe that no minister has a right to the administration of the ordinances—only such as are regularly elected and come under the imposition of hands by the presbytery.

Financial Exhibit of Geneva Baptist Association for 1898.

CHURCH.	State Missions.	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Minutes.	Pastor's Salary.	Sabbath Schools.	Orphans' Home.	Value of Property.
Adoniram....	.	.	.	\$2 60	.	.	.	\$ 200 00
Center Ridge	\$ 90	.	.	75	.	.	.	.
Friendship....	.	.	.	2 00	.	.	.	500 00
Fellowship....	.	.	\$2 30	2 50	.	.	\$14 00	2000 00
Geneva.....	5 00	\$5 00	2 00	2 50	\$391 80	.	.	.
Shiloh.....	2 35	.	.	1 50	.	.	.	.
Leonia.....	1 65	.	.	50	.	.	.	.
New Hope....	.	.	.	1 25	.	\$5 00	.	275 00
*Pilgrim Rest	.	.	.	1 25	40 40	.	.	.
Pleasant Grove	.	.	2 30	2 00	.	.	.	100 00
Pleasant Hill	.	.	.	2 50	.	.	.	.
New Teamon..	.	.	.	1 00	.	.	1 00	.
Edon.....	.	.	.	25	.	.	.	.
Union.....	.	1 00	1 00	1 00	.	.	.	.
Zion Hill....	.	.	.	1 00	.	.	.	100 00

*Dale County.

STATISTICS OF THE GENEVA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION FOR 1898.

CHURCH AND COUNTY	PASTOR	CLERKS' NAMES AND POST OFFICE ADDRESSES	INCREASE DECREASE										SABBATH SCHOOL			
			Membership, Last Report	Baptism	Letter	Voucher	Restoration	Letter	Exclusion	Erasure	Deaths	Preaching Days	Present Member- ship	Officers & Teachers	Pupils	Superintendent
Adoniram, Geneva.....	G. J. Canant.....	G. W. Canant, Eunola.....	89	9	3	2	3	2	1	2	97	20	J. F. Thornton			
Center Ridge, Coffee....	J. F. Register.	J. F. Thornton, Coffee Springs	21	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	24	6	33	D. W. Johnson		
Friendship, Geneva.....	" "	A. M. Mills, Costilla.....	85	2	6	1	1	1	1	3	92	5	33	D. W. Johnson		
Fellowship, " ".....	S. A. Savell.....	H. J. Childs, Hartford.....	80	3	6	2	2	2	2	2	81	6	33	J. J. Watson		
Geneva, " ".....	W. L. Cahall.....	W. W. Barnett, Geneva.....	187	4	4	17	17	7	1	1	166	12	88	W. J. Pouncey		
Leonla, Holmes*.....	N. J. Peters.....	J. B. Watson, Barkers, Fla..	16	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	54	3	22	J. M. Gilmon		
New Hope, Holmes*...	J. F. Register...	J. E. Dancy, Holmes, Fla...	72	3	2	7	8	3	3	1	65	4	33	H. J. Owens		
Pilgrim Rest, Dale....	G. J. Canant.....	O. C. Hughes, Watford.....	69	2	4	1	1	1	1	2	75	10	102	W. H. Stewart		
Pilgrim Rest, Coffee...	N. B. Fleming...	F. E. Bedsole, Cross Trails...	47	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	38	3	38			
Pleasant Grove, Holmes*	J. H. Patton.....	W. H. Grubbs, Eunola.....	66	21	3	8	11	3	1	4	105	6	30	W. H. Grubbs		
Pleasant Hill, Geneva..	S. Whitford.....	J. G. Lewis, Dundee.....	83	1	9	5	3	3	1	4	74	14	39			
Pleasant Ridge, Holmes*	J. F. Register...	J. M. Gillis, Union, Fla.....	39	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	39	1	1			
New Teannon, Geneva..	S. Whitford.....	L. M. Tate, Hightnote.....	70	2	2	7	2	2	2	1	62	1	1			
Shiloh, Geneva.....	S. A. Savell.....	M. M. Dean, Dundee.....	111	2	3	3	3	3	3	1	144	1	1			
Edon, " ".....	J. F. Register...	C. J. Hinson, Geneva.....	36	1	6	5	1	1	1	1	37	1	1			
Zion Hill, Geneva.....	W. H. McIntosh.	T. J. Pelham, Hightnote.....	102	5	17	17	7	1	1	1	114	6	37			
*Florida.			102	5	17	17	7	1	1	1	114	6	37			

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